

In a titanic struggle the result was almost immaterial — the real winner of this game being football. Thanks to referee T. Bune (Plaistow) the match flowed smoothly, devoid of irritating stoppages as the teams concentrated on their own brand of football.

For their brilliant second half fight back, Wycombe certainly did not deserve to lose their second successive League outing. They did everything but score and had it not been for England goalkeeper John Swannell, the Blues would surely have swung the result.

As it was, Amateur Cup winners Hendon survived Wycombe's tremendous pressure by packing their defence throughout the second half.

So Wanderers' forwards were unable to break through as against Walthamstow on Saturday. Yet they can't be too despondent for they are creating chances and it must surely only be a matter of time before the goals start going in.

JOHN IN

John Hutchinson was the only change in Wycombe's line up, coming in for Mick Hollifield. The move was a great success, Hutch getting through far more work and laying the ball off well for the front runners.

Two early efforts by the sharp Johnny Baker soon put Hendon in their stride. They turned on some brilliant football in the first half, playing football similar to Wycombe's last season. Quick, accurate inter-passing and total possession play.

A 30 YARD goal by full back Tony Jennings was the difference between the top two amateur sides in the South at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening. In front of England team boss Charles Hughes, the Isthmian League giants produced football at its very best.

But after six minutes John Delaney raced up to head Hutchinson's inswinging corner towards goal only for full back Hand to head the ball off the line. From then on the giant Tony Bass came back for every dead-ball kick to cover Wycombe's centre half.

Playing by far their best football of the season, Wycombe went close through Searle and Williams while Pritchard was everywhere, showing something like his top form in midfield.

Hendon's goal, in the 38th minute came after a brilliant save by John Maskell from Rod Haider. From Childs' corner Delaney headed the ball out to Jennings on the angle of the box. The full back hit the ball perfectly and sent it speeding past the unsighted Maskell.

Throughout the half Wycombe had been probing the Hendon defence with long balls down the middle. Although Keith Searle dominated Welsh International centre back Phillips in the air, Wycombe could not reap the full profit from his efforts.

They used the flanks far more in a second half that belonged entirely to Wycombe. They had five corners to Hendon's one and were desperately unlucky not to take a share of the points.

FANS ROAR

John Swannell showed just why he is the regular England 'keeper with reflex saves from Searle and Williams and then in the 62nd minute Wycombe fans roared with approval when the referee pointed to the penalty spot after Deadman had fouled Searle inside the box.

But the roars soon turned to groans when Mr. Bune awarded a free kick on the edge of the area after consulting his linesman. Amos' drive struck Hendon's six-man wall and was cleared.

Pulling all 11 players back for free kicks and corners, Hendon held firm while Delaney and Olsen, who were in almost total command all night at the heart of the home defence, were troubled only twice in the last 45 minutes. Bass beat Delaney for the only time in the half and forced Maskell to save his glancing header full length while Connell almost broke through three minutes from time.

Perhaps Wycombe's best chance came with only four minutes remaining. Amos latched on to Bass's poor pass

back and fired against the advancing Swannell. The ball ricocheted out to Searle whose carefully placed shot again struck Swannell and was cleared.

Amos tried to glide the Blues' final chance in with his left foot, just wide of the post but seconds later referee Bune brought this classic to a close.

S.E.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, D. Gamblin, G. Olsen, J. Delaney, B. Davies, A. Amos, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, J. Hutchinson, R. Williams, sub M. Hollifield (not used).

Hendon: J. Swannell, T. Jennings, G. Hand, P. Deadman, A. Phillips, R. Haider, R. Childs, J. Connell, A. Bass, J. Baker, P. Fry, sub. G. Rocknean (not used).

Referee: T. Bune (Plaistow).

Half time: 0-1. **Goalscorer:** T. Jennings (38).

Official paying attendance: 1,744. **Approx. attendance:** 2,100.